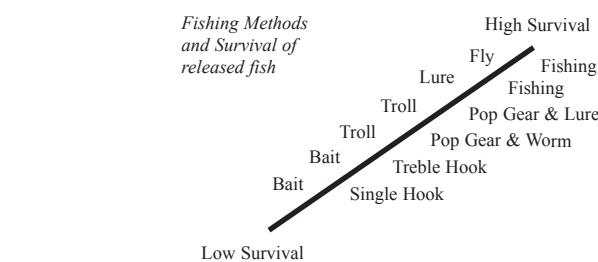
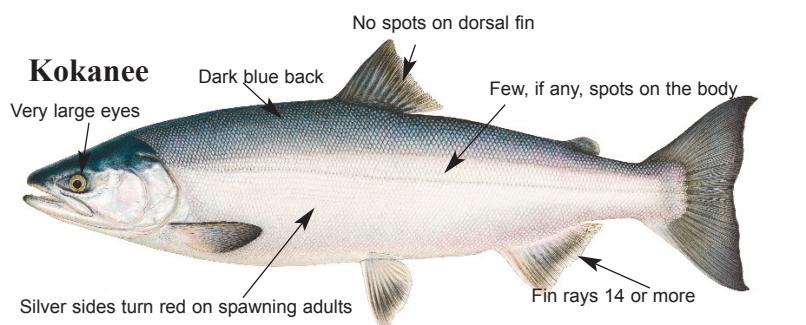
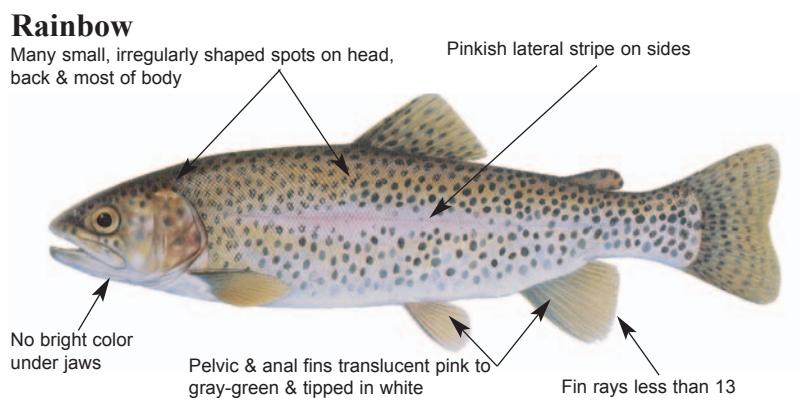
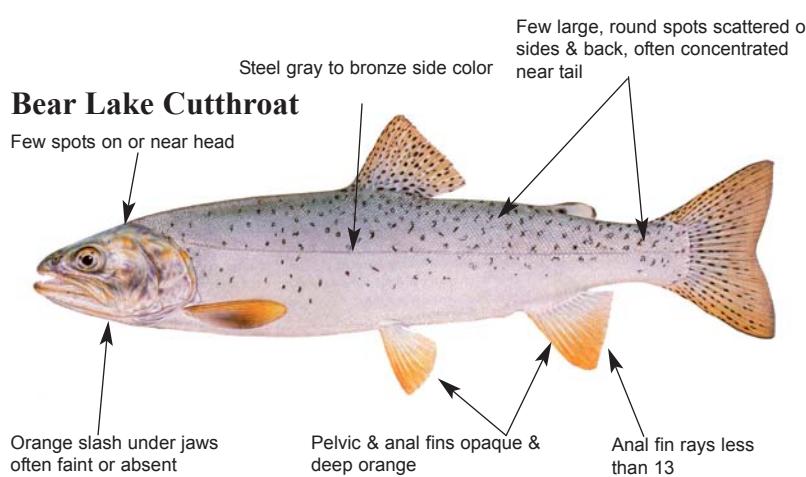


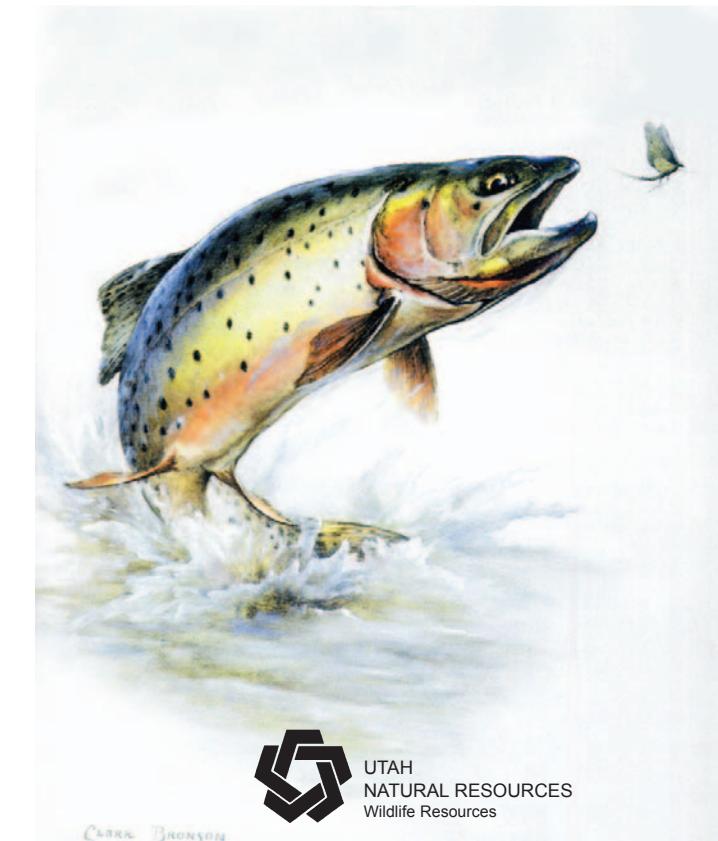
STRAWBERRY RESERVOIR

Fishing Regulations and Fish Identification



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NEW FISHING REGULATIONS AT STRAWBERRY RESERVOIR

Fishing regulations at Strawberry currently require anglers to release all cutthroat trout from 15 to 22 inches long. While anglers are still allowed a 4 fish total possession limit, only 3 can be cutthroat trout. Anglers can have 2 cutthroat trout under 15 inches and 1 over 22 inches in their possession. No additional fishing restrictions are imposed with these regulations.

Why did the Wildlife Board make these changes?

- Utah chubs are becoming more prominent in the fishery.
- Bear Lake cutthroat co-evolved with Utah chubs in their native habitat, and will thrive and effectively utilize chubs for food, once they have grown large enough to prey on them.
- Strawberry sustains nearly 1.5 million hours of angling pressure, and Utah's anglers harvested 380,000 trout (274 tons of fish) from Strawberry Reservoir during 2001. This level of harvest is not sustainable.
- Intensive angler harvest pattern of the past were cropping off most of the cut throats before they reached a sufficient size to effectively prey on other fish and spawn in tributary streams.
- Good populations of large cutthroat trout (greater than 20 inches) are critical to maintaining a productive sport fishery at Strawberry well into the future.

In order to achieve management goals for Strawberry, the short-term harvest of cutthroat trout had to be significantly reduced. However, in an attempt to make more fish available for anglers to keep, the Division of Wildlife Resources has increased rainbow stocking. Overall catch rates should continue to be excellent. As rainbow numbers increase and large numbers of cutthroat grow beyond 22 inches, more fish should be available for harvest in the future. It will take several years to determine if increased numbers of larger cutthroat trout will stabilize the chub population at appropriate levels. However, cutthroat predation will **NEVER** completely eliminate chubs from the fishery.

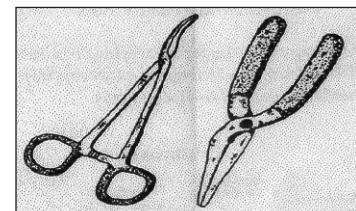
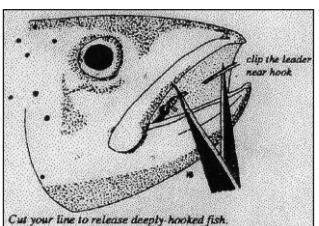
Catch and Release Fishing

To give these regulations a chance to work, anglers must practice proper catch and release techniques. When catch and release is done properly, and with the right equipment, there is a 90% chance that released fish will survive. The catch and release program gives **YOU** the opportunity to protect, develop and enhance this world class cutthroat fishery.

How to Release Fish Properly

KNOW YOUR FISH SPECIES

COME TO STRAWBERRY PROPERLY EQUIPPED to release fish with such items as a landing net, forceps, clippers, un-plated hooks, and most importantly, a tape measure. Some anglers find it convenient to attach a measuring stick directly to their boat or mark their rods to allow easy measurement and quick release. With experience, anglers should be able to judge fish size at a glance, and release many fish without a measurement.



FISH WITH ARTIFICIAL FLIES AND LURES. Although there are no reservoir specific bait restrictions in place at Strawberry, anglers are encouraged to use artificials whenever possible. Artificials are very effective during all seasons at Strawberry, and survival rates for released fish are much better.

If fishing with bait, fish with a tight line and active angling techniques (i.e. drift fishing, trolling with pop gear and worm, tipping jigs and lures, etc.) to reduce deeply swallowed hooks. If the fish is deeply hooked, cut the line as close to the hook as possible and release the fish. **DON'T TRY TO REMOVE THE HOOK.** Avoid using stainless steel, chrome, or brass plated hooks as these will not readily dissolve in the fish's digestive system.

BRING THE FISH IN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. Don't tire it out. This is particularly important during the summer months when fish are already stressed by high water temperatures.

KEEP THE FISH IN THE WATER. Studies have shown that exposure of the fish to the air after exhaustive exercise may significantly reduce survival rates.

Use nets whenever possible to **AVOID UNNECESSARY CONTACT WITH THE FISH**, but never grasp the fish through the net. If you must handle the fish, be sure to moisten hands beforehand. Never squeeze the body or eye sockets, touch the gills, or lay the fish on the ground.

GENTLY RELEASE THE FISH directly into quiet water, moving it slowly back and forth to pass water over the gills. Never toss the fish over the side of the boat or handle roughly in any manner.

RELEASE THE FISH IMMEDIATELY. Don't hold fish on stringers for later release. This is illegal. Fish held and stressed in such a manner will seldom survive.

IF YOUR TECHNIQUES ARE KILLING FISH, CHANGE YOUR TECHNIQUES OR CALL IT A DAY. Remember, the regulation requires that you release all cutthroat trout from 15 to 22 inches regardless of their condition.

Do your part to ensure a quality future fishery by **RELEASING MORE FISH THAN THE LAW REQUIRES.**

REMEMBER: THE LEGAL LIMIT APPLIES TO EACH ANGLER. You are not allowed to take fish on another angler's limit. **ALSO REMEMBER THAT IT IS ILLEGAL TO FILLET FISH OR TO REMOVE HEADS OR TAILS** from fish taken in waters such as Strawberry where size limits apply.

*Note: If you observe fishing violations at Strawberry, please call the UDWR Poaching Hotline at 1-800-662-DEER (3337) [*DEER for cell phone users] or call the Wasatch County Sheriff's office at 1-435-654-1411.*

Special Note: Most fish will swim away even if they are mishandled. This may be rewarding to the angler, but a fish that dies a day or week later is of little value to the fishery.

GAME FISH IDENTIFICATION IN STRAWBERRY RESERVOIR

Strawberry currently sustains 3 game fish species including the Bear Lake cutthroat trout, sterilized rainbow trout, and kokanee salmon. It is important that anglers learn the basics of fish identification to comply with the regulations.

Kokanee salmon are characterized by silvery sides with a dark blue back and few, if any spots on the body (SEE PICTURES ON OTHER PAGE). The absence of spots on the dorsal fin readily differentiates this species from cutthroat and rainbow trout. As the spawning season approaches, both the male and female kokanee turn a deep red color, and the male develops the characteristic hump on the back, elongated head, and hooked jaw common to many species of the salmon family.



Bear Lake Cutthroat

One of the most reliable diagnostic features that distinguishes Bear Lake cutthroat from rainbow trout involves fin coloration. The Bear Lake cutthroat trout found in Strawberry exhibits opaque, deep orange pelvic and anal fins (i.e. the paired belly fins and single medial fin behind the vent), whereas the rainbow trout has translucent pink to gray-green pelvic and anal fins that are tipped in white.



Bear Lake Cutthroat Trout



Rainbow Trout

In addition, Bear Lake cutthroat have sparsely scattered, large, and very distinctly rounded spots over the upper body, with few spots on or near the head. Spotting is typically more concentrated near the tail. Rainbow trout, on the other hand, are characterized by more dense, irregularly shaped spots on the back, sides, and head. Bear Lake cutthroat often lack the bright crimson jaw slash that, at times, may be yellow, gray, or nonexistent, and the slash is not a reliable distinguishing characteristic.



Cutthroat Trout
Few spots on head



Rainbow Trout
Many spots on head

Rainbow trout are also typified by the characteristic pink lateral stripe, which does not occur on cutthroat. Although there are certainly differences between individual fish, rainbow trout tend to have a more robust body form, and a blunter snout than the cutthroat. For more specific fish species identification information, please refer to the current fishing proclamation.